



Docket No. 15554US01

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND
POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

UMBRELLA UNDERCANOPY FASTENING SYSTEM

the specification of which:

* is attached hereto.

X was filed on February 18, 2004 as United States Application Number
10/781,233.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Day/Month/Year Filed</u>	<u>Is Priority Claimed?</u>
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
60/448,704	02-18-03
60/541,526	02-03-04

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this

application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Patented, Pending, or Abandoned?</u>
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I hereby appoint the attorneys and/or agents at Customer Number 23446 to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Address all telephone calls to Joseph M. Barich at telephone number:

(312) 775-8000.

Address all correspondence to:

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
34th Floor
500 W. Madison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

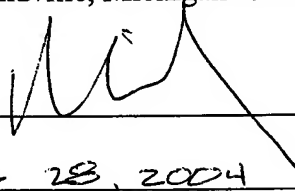
This declaration names one inventor(s) below.

Information about the inventor:

(given name, family name): Mike Nipke
Residence: 3793 Iris Street, Grandville, Michigan 49418
Citizenship: USA
Post Office Address: 3793 Iris Street, Grandville, Michigan 49418

Inventor's signature:

Date Signed:


June 28, 2004